

Newsletter

June 2026



A Word from Niall ...

Sometimes it feels like I am not just a principal of a school but the Headmaster of a School of Magic!

June is a truly magical month in schools. The bulk of the academic and curricular work has been completed, and the long summer days give way to Active School activities, sports days, long walks in nature, school tours, Blooming days, Graduations, Teddy-Bear picnics and even World Cup matches!

June is also a time of change. We say goodbye to some families and graduates, while welcoming new families and Junior Infants. The same is true of staff members. Schools, just like life, are places of change. How we respond to change can build our resilience and ability to cope with future challenges. I am very proud to be part of our Educate Together community here in Westport, but it is worth remembering that all of us at some time in our life will need help and I would like to think that we can rely on other members of our community if and when it's needed! This thought brings to mind a quote from another Headmaster at a school of magic – Dumbledore!

"You will find that help is always given at Hogwarts (Westport Educate Together) to those who ask for it!"

I'll leave that one with you all but it is something we should all remember!

Have a great summer holiday and see you bright and bubbly on September 1st.

Niall

Survey Results

The results from 2 recent surveys, School Self-Evaluation report for Wellbeing and a Department Primary School survey are available and can be viewed on the school website in the Reports to the BOM section.

Important Dates



- ✓ Friday, **June 26th** – early closure @ 11:30 for the Summer holidays.
- ✓ Saturday **August 29th @ 11:00**, New Family Meet-up, Westport Playground.
- ✓ School will open again on Tuesday **September 1st @ 08:30**
- ✓ Friday, **September 4th @ 08:30**
1st PGA meeting, Westport Woods Hotel

See the full school calendar for 2026/27 on the website. *Please note there will be 2 additional closures for Department Curriculum Days. Dates to be confirmed. You will receive a definite copy in September.*

School Reports



The end of year school report will be paperless. You can access your child's school report on the Aladdin Connect App. If you require a paper copy please let the office know. Thank you

Team

We are delighted to officially welcome Niamh to the team. Niamh has been working with us for over a year covering maternity leave.



We would also like to acknowledge that Laura has been appointed as our Assistant Principal.



Class Allocations

- Junior & Senior Infants: Gráinne
- 1st, 2nd, 3rd: Kirsten
- 4th, 5th, 6th: Laura

GIY Project - Watch our garden grow



Earlier this year, we received 4 wooden planters kits as part of the GROW IT YOURSELF project. Thank you to the parents who took time to build our planters and prepare the garden.

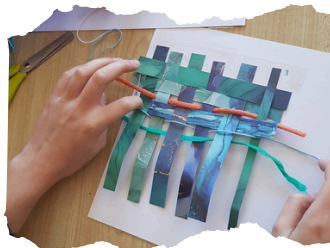
Over the past months the children have been busy planting bulbs and sowing seeds. They have decorated rocks as labels. They are also watering and weeding our little garden on a regular basis.

Last week, we harvested our first produce; radishes. In September we hope to harvest potatoes, parsnip and peas.



BLAST

This year we took part in the BLAST project. BLAST is a collaborative in-school creative partnerships between pupils, teachers and a creative practitioner. Under Jennifer Hickey's guidance, the pupils used a variety of materials and created some wonderful art work.



Rounders Blitz

With 2 Rounders players on our staff, it seems only fitting that we would host a Rounders Blitz. 6 local schools joined us on the Green by the Quay Community Centre for a great day of sportsmanship and fun.



Blooming & Graduation Day



This month we celebrated our 4th Blooming Day. It is such a special occasion and a wonderful way of celebrating the milestones the pupils have reached. The celebration included yet another terrific drumming performance by our 1st & 2nd class pupils led by Anthony McNamee.



Congratulations to Kai on graduating Primary School. We wish you all the best as you go to Secondary School.

PGA Update

I would like to start by thanking the whole school community who supported the PGA during our first official year in place. To all the parents and guardians who gave their time, attended an event or contributed ideas or feedback - thank you! A special thank you to Niall and Stephanie for supporting us and ensuring parents and guardians can be actively involved in our school community.

Highlights from the year

- Organised events for the school community including the first new families meet up and an information evening for parents
- Facilitated eight fundraising events raising over €4,500!
- Smartphone group - created new mobile phone policy with school, joined Westport wide smartphone/social media charter and have put recommendations forward to school on voluntary smartphone agreement
- Communications group - conducted second survey to new families to further support information to incoming families, started working on some general updates for the website, sent updates to school community

Fundraising Update

It's been a busy final term for the PGA as well - we had some very successful fundraising initiatives which not only raised funds but also facilitated some lovely activities, including Bingo and Movie nights, and online and in-person yoga. Special thanks to Linda who is school photographer this year - a new fundraiser for the PGA.

Fundraising objectives were shared and the students have benefited from enrichment activities, a new Buddy Bench, Sensory Trail and additional classroom resources. A full update, on money raised and where it was spent, will be shared in the new school year and presented at our AGM.

Upcoming Events

We'd love to see as many of you as possible at our upcoming events:

New Family Meet-up: August 29th - Westport Town Playground. To welcome the incoming Junior Infants and new families to the school.

First meeting of the 2026/2027 school year: September 4th at 8:30am in Westport Woods Hotel.

Bucket Collection: Sept 19th Fundraiser.

Thank you all for your continued support!
Have a great summer.

The PGA Committee
Cara, Kat and Lindsay

